



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 26, 2001

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Intermountain Region News Release

George Helfrich Named Superintendent at Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Denver -- Karen Wade, Intermountain Regional Director, National Park Service, announced today that George Helfrich, management assistant at Grand Teton National Park, has been named superintendent at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, effective December 30, 2001. Helfrich replaces James Mack, who earlier this year accepted the position of superintendent at White Sands National Monument.

"Helfrich is a proven manager whose leadership skills will be a great asset to Fort Laramie National Historic Site, and will quickly be appreciated for the abilities he brings to this position," said Regional Director Wade.

When asked to reflect on this new assignment Helfrich said, "I am looking forward to working with the staff at Fort Laramie, and with partners in the neighboring communities to further the National Park Service's sixty-three years of work, preserving and protecting one of America's most important locations in the history of westward expansion."

Helfrich began his career with the National Park Service in 1994, as a concessions management specialist in Grand Teton National Park. He became the park's management assistant in 1998. During his tenure at Grand Teton, Helfrich worked on a number of highly visible projects including the 1997 completion of the Triangle X Dude Ranch contract, the completion of the 2001 open space study, and the 2001 acquisition of some of the Craighead family and Snake River Ranch property within the park. Helfrich also served as acting superintendent at Fort Union National Monument from April to July 2001.

Prior to joining the National Park Service, Helfrich worked for concession companies in numerous national park units including Grand Canyon, Big Bend, Death Valley, Zion and Bryce Canyon. From 1985 – 1988, he worked for TW Services (now Amfac, Inc.) in Yellowstone National Park, managing the Old Faithful Inn and Old Faithful Snowlodge. From 1991 – 1993, Helfrich served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer, devoting time at the University College of Belize, where he taught writing and literature.

Helfrich holds a Master of Education in English from Montana State University and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is married to Joy Wilkins Helfrich, a social worker at St. Johns Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming. They have one son, Paul, who is four years old.

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